

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03990 201829Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 201647Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9307

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: KORUTURK ADDRESS TO TURKISH YOUTH

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT KORUTURK, IN SPEECH TO THE NATION'S YOUTH DENOUNCED POLITICAL EXTREMISM OF LEFT AND RIGHT AND RELIGIOUS FANATICISM. HE URGED POLITICAL LEADERS TO BE AWARE OF THE IMPACT OF THEIR ACTIONS AND CHIDED TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION FOR OVERCONCENTRATION ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL DISPUTES. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT KORUTURK, IN AN ADDRESS TO THE NATION'S YOUTH AT MAY 19 YOUTH AND SPORTS DAY CEREMONIES (56TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATATURK'S LANDING AT SAMSUN), DELIVERED A STERN WARNING AGAINST THE ADOPTION OF EXTREMIST FOREIGN IDEOLOGIES OF "COMMUNIST SOCIALISM" AND NATIONAL SOCIALISM. THE PRESIDENT CONTRASTED ATATURK'S REVOLUTIONS AND REFORMS (WHICH, HE SAID, WERE NOT DRAWN FROM FOREIGN PHILOSOPHIES) WITH THE "HOLLOWNESS" IN PERSONALITY OF "THOSE WHO RAISE THEIR RIGHT OR LEFT FISTS" TO COMMUNISM OR FACISM.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 03990 201829Z

2. KORUTURK ALSO SPOKE OUT AGAINST RELIGIOUS FANATICISM, SAYING THAT "THERE IS NO BENEFIT TO SOCIETY FROM RELIGIOUS FANATICS WHO THINK AND SPEAK DIFFERENTLY IN THE MOSQUE, IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITIES, OR IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, AND WHO USE RELIGION AS AN INSTRUMENT OF POLITICS."

3. HE STATED THAT "IF VIOLENT FORCE PREDOMINATES IN THE POLITICAL MILIEU, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SPEAK OF A FREE DEMOCRATIC LIFE" AND CALLED ON THOSE CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY POLITICAL "CADRES" WHO EXCEED THE NORMAL LIMITS OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION, TO THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT THE REGRETTABLE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AND THE IMPACT OF THEIR WORDS AND DEEDS ON THE COMMON CITIZENRY.

4. KOROTURK ALSO CHIDED TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT) FOR PUTTING TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON COVERAGE OF INTERNAL POLITICAL DISPUTES, "THUS CREATING ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE SPIRIT AND NERVES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE," WHEN THERE WERE SO MANY INTERESTING EVENTS WORLDWIDE.

COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT SPOKE IN RATHER FATHERLY TONES AND EVENHANDEDLY CASTIGATED POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM AND VIOLENCE FROM ANY QUARTER. HE POINTED OUT THE DANGERS INHERENT IN POLITICAL ENMITIES AND URGED RECONCILIATION, NOT REPRISALS. NEVERTHELESS, HIS SPEECH'S PRACTICAL IMPACT IN HEALING CURRENT POLITICAL DIVISIONS IS LIKELY TO BE MINIMAL. HIS CRITICISM OF THE TRT WAS RESENTED BY THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY BECAUSE OF THE PARTY'S STRONG DEFENSE OF RECENTLY OUSTED TRT DIRECTOR ISMAIL CEM IPEKCI.  
MACOMBER

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**TAGS:** PINT, TU, (KORUTURK, FAHRI)  
**To:** STATE  
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